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AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

GRAND OPERA—Mme. Sarah Bernhardt.

OLYMPIA—The "Meditation."

THE HAYMAKERS—The "Meditation."

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one particular, led blameless lives. And now that polygamy has been given up by the church, citizenship is one of their rights.

## CORNERING THE RAILROAD.

The consolidations which took place last

week of several coal carrying railroads in

New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania

under the control of the Reading Railroad

is one of the largest deals. If not the

largest, that ever took place. Its purpose

is to cheapen the production and distribu-

tion of coal, to lower the cost of coal to the

producing companies. It is said that

economies can be introduced into a large

concern which would be impossible in a

small one. This, of course, is well under-

stood and is the inducement of every com-

bination of this kind.

But who gets the benefit?

We are told that coal being produced

more cheaply than before, the consumer

will be benefited by lower prices. But

prices rise and fall with cost only when

free competition prevails. The cost of

production will undoubtedly be lowered,

but the price will be fixed in a market con-

trolled by a united group of corporations

forming a perfect and absolute monopoly.

It is a fallacy to suppose that because the

owner of a commodity can lower prices he

will do so. He will "charge what the

traffic will bear," and if he has a monopoly

of a commodity which is a necessary of

life, which the consumer must have at any

price, there will be practically no limit to

his exactions save that set by popular

wrath.

The fact is these combinations are con-

spiracies against the people, for whose

good the corporations were created. If

there is any economy in monopoly the

people should get the whole benefit. On

no other ground can any monopoly be

justified. Competition is the natural

keeper of the equities between producer

and consumer, and when for any reason a

corporation is chartered and given certain

privileges it is expected that it will use

them for the public good. A charter is a

public trust, not a private snap. If these

corporations are permitted to combine and

form an absolute monopoly of anthracite

coal, competition is entirely eliminated.

Such a condition was never contemplated

by the law, and is repugnant to the spirit of

free institutions.

It is idle to pretend that the "combine"

will not use its power. Power is used

wherever it is held. And it should be re-

membered that these allied corporations

control not only the price of anthracite

coal, but the opportunities for its pro-

duction. It is proposed to fence in the

mines. The monopoly comprises a large

section of the natural resources of Penn-

sylvania, access to which is forbidden.

The supply of coal will be decreased, while

labor is thrown out of employment. Of

course the result will be just what it is

intended to be. Prices will go up, wages will

go down. Does any sane man doubt it?

It is hardly possible that this consoli-

dation will survive. The people of Penn-

sylvania never intended to tie their own

hands. Some way can certainly be found

through the law to wrest these mines from

the possession of the "combine" and

throw them open for the benefit of shiver-

ing people.

It seems probable now that the proposed

constitutional amendment providing for

the election of Senators by popular vote

will come before the States in a few

months. It certainly has much to com-

mend it. The United States Senate under

the present system tends constantly to be-

come a rich man's club which looks after

rich men's interests. Corporations and

monopolies are represented rather than

the people or the States. Senator PALMER's

measure may not be a complete correction

of the evils attending elections by legis-

lature, but it will certainly make election

by purchase more difficult. The "Federal

principle" must not be lost sight of, but it

is difficult to see that it will suffer impair-

ment by making the Government more

Democratic. The Democracy in the United

States has reached its majority, and if it

cannot now be trusted it never can be.

A DEADLY ILLNESS seems to have

come over the House of Representatives. Mat-

ters of great port and moment are clamor-

ing for attention, while those bidden by

the people to carry out their wishes are

standing heavily around. It is time to go

to work.

IN TO-MORROW'S SUNDAY POST-DISPATCH

will be found a review of Col. INGERSOLL's

argument against Christianity by Father

L. A. LAMBERT, a distinguished priest of

the Catholic Church. Father LAMBERT's

letter is strong and logical, caustic, witty,

and subtly analytical. It is one of the

most interesting chapters in the great con-

troversy.

THE French tariff, which seems to be

modeled on the McKinley plan of doing

the greatest good to the smallest number,

is likely to fall before the wrath of con-

sumers. The people want cheap food and

cheap clothes and have learned that prices

cannot be lowered by adding to the cost

of production.

THE proposal to reduce the wool tariff is

denounced as an attack upon the people.

It will certainly make coats cheaper, and

this, according to Mr. HARRISON's famous

saying, argues cheap men. It is to be

hoped, however, that the delay in bring-

ing in the bill is not caused by fear of this

wonderland logic.

THERE does not seem to be any good

reason to refuse the demand of Utah for

admission into the Union. It is inhabited

by a sturdy people who have reduced a

wilderness to a garden, and have, save in

one particular, led blameless lives. And

now that polygamy has been given up by

the church, citizenship is one of their

rights.

THE Chicago Herald has convicted Col.

INGERSOLL of claptrap and plagiarism in

his speech on ABRAHAM LINCOLN. It

would seem from the evidence produced

by the Herald that the Colonel is in the

habit of gathering telling sayings and

bright paradoxes from famous authors and

fringe them off as his own good occasion.

The speech in question seems to be a col-

lection of such stolen goods slightly dis-

guised.

THE increase in judicial salaries made

possible by dispensing with the services of

six or eight judges and dividing the money

saved among the others will not be entirely

satisfactory, but it can be done without

overworking the judges, and shall be ac-

companied by a reform in the circuits and

an equalization of burdens it will at least

be a decided improvement on the present

niggardly system.

TAKE the three Sunday morning papers

to-morrow and compare them. You will

find that the SUNDAY POST-DISPATCH,

which now has a circulation twice as great

as that of the Sunday Herald in this city

and vicinity, is incomparably the best.

Hereafter you will not buy any other Sun-

day paper; so for economy's sake buy all

the Sunday papers to-morrow and compare

them.

If Chicago is entitled to \$5,000,000 more

for the World's Fair, or is it as put by

her representatives, if the national honor

demands another appropriation for that

purpose, the fact can be demonstrated in

Washington. It is not necessary for this

economy Congress to waste the people's

money finding out which way honor lies.

## JUST IN POINT.

North St. Louis People Contradict

the Collector's Statements.

Broadway Citizens Remonstrate Vainly

Against a Saloon.

THE CHAIR MAINTAINING JACOBSON'S

TWO SALOONS IN ONE BLOCK.

An Attempt to Rid a Neighborhood of a

Disagreeable Place Thwarted by Zie-

genhahn's Refusal to Follow the Law and

Ask for a Police Investigation of the

Matter—Talks With the Tax-Payers

Interested.

Defending his violation of the law by fail-

ing to make saloon-keepers file yearly pe-

titions of tax-payers for the renewal of their

licenses, Collector Ziegenhahn told the Coun-

cil Committee the other afternoon that the

people in North and South St. Louis never

remonstrated against a saloon.

His statement as to North St. Louis was

so utterly untrue that the Post-DISPATCH

thought it worth printing with unusual

prominence, like this:

"UP IN THAT PART OF TOWN WHERE

FRIEND BENJER LIVES, THE PEOPLE

WOULD THINK A REMONSTRANCE WAS

THE MAN IN THE MOON. THEY DON'T

KNOW WHAT ONE IS."

This remarkable assertion struck with

amusement the people of one part of North

St. Louis at least. One of them sent to this

paper the following note:

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:

A good illustration of Mr. Ziegenhahn's high-

browed way of looking at things is his re-

mark that the people of North St. Louis

never remonstrated against a saloon. He

is a man who has been in the city for

many years, and he has seen many a

man who has been in the city for many

years, and he has seen many a man who

has been in the city for many years, and

he has seen many a man who has been in

the city for many years, and he has seen

many a man who has been in the city for

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seen many a man who has been in the city















